

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 SPM-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 HEW-08 AGR-20 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

/198 W

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R 251420Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4283

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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OECD FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UN, FAO, TS

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 10697; STATE 7206

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON TAHAR AMEUR, NEW CHIEF OF ECONOMIC MULTILATERAL COOPERATION SECTION IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY U.S. VIEWS REGARDING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, DRAWING ON STATE 10697.

2. AMEUR TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES AND PROMISED TO BRING U.S. VIEWS TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE GOT OFFICIALS. HE STATED THAT TUNISIA HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO

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PARTICIPATE IN FEBRUARY 11-15 MEETING OF PREPARATORY

COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK, BUT WILL PROBABLY BE REPRESENTED ONLY BY ITS DELEGATION TO UN ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEND EXPERT TO STRENGTHEN TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT GOT HAS NOT YET FORMULATED ITS VIEWS TOWARD WFC. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS RELATIVELY NEW IN PRESENT POSITON AND IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHO WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN WFC MATTERS. MAY HAVE FORMULATED SOME PRELIMINARY OPINIONS. HE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY IF GOT DECIDES TO STRENGTHEN DELEGATION TO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING AND IF IT ARRIVES AT COORDINATED WFC POSITION.

3. ON PERSONAL BASIS, AMEUR SAID HE CERTAIN GOT WOULD SUPPORT ANY ATTEMPT BY WFC TO HELP RESOLVE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND FELT THAT POINTS IN PRELIMINARY U.S. POSITION WERE SOCOND.HE HAD NO COMMENT ON SCENARIO FOR WFC, BUT, AGAIN SPEAKING PERSONALLY, FELT THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE SOME MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT COUNTRIES RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO TRY TO STEM POPULATION GROWTH. UNLESS POPULATION INCREASE CAN BE CONTAINED, POSSIBLY BY MAKING FOOD AID CONDITIONAL ON POPULATION PROGRAMS, WORLD WILL NOT EVEN BE ABLE MAINTAIN PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY LEVEL OF PER CAPITA FOOD CONSUMTION. HE FELT SUCH POSITION WOULD BE IN LINE WITH TUNISIAN POLICY STRESSING FAMILY PLANNING TO REDUCE POPULATION GROWTH.

4. COMMENT: WHILE GOT IS INTERESTED IN WFC AND PROBABLY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PLAY RELATIVELY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL ARRIVE AT EVEN PRELIMINARY COORDINATED POSITION PRIOR TO FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING IN FEBRUARY. LIKELY THAT GOT WILL BE REPRESENTED ONLY BY ITS UN DELEGATION.

SEELYE

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